
CONTROL OF PETS AND OTHER ANIMALS

This instruction establishes procedures and responsibilities for animal control and prevention of communicable animal diseases. It applies to all personnel and activities assigned, attached, or residing on Laughlin Air Force Base. It incorporates *Texas Department of Health and Safety Code, Chapter 826*, the *Bureau of Veterinary Public Health, Rabies Control and Eradication Code, Title 25*, and the *Texas Administrative Code, Sections 169.21 - 169.33*.

1. GENERAL:

- 1.1. Maintaining animals on the installation is a privilege dependent upon the owner's compliance with this instruction and the behavior of the animal(s).
- 1.2. Ownership of more than three animals (excluding fish, caged birds, turtles, hamsters, and gerbils) in one family household is prohibited. In addition, breeding or raising of animals for commercial purposes is forbidden.
- 1.3. Wild animals and domestic food animals (i.e., monkeys, skunks, raccoons, ferrets, goats, cattle, potbellied pigs, etc.) are a dangerous source of communicable disease. They are prohibited on the installation.
- 1.4. Dormitory/billeting pet restrictions are contained in the *Unaccompanied Housing Pamphlet*.
- 1.5. It is unlawful for any person having the charge or custody of an animal to fail to provide it with proper food, drink, or shelter, or to abandon it (*Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 821*). Animals will not be treated in a cruel manner (*Texas Penal Code, Section 42.11*). Violations of the penal code are Class "A" misdemeanors.
- 1.6. Dogs and cats must be registered on base. They must have all vaccinations prescribed by Base Veterinarian Services (SGV) and be issued base rabies immunization tags before they are considered registered.
- 1.7. The 47th Security Forces Stray Animal Facility, Bldg 141, is **not** an approved/licensed quarantine facility (*Rabies Control and Eradication Code, Title 25, Texas Administrative Code, Section 169.26*). Quarantine of animals will be at an off-base establishment outlined in paragraph 3, this directive.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES:**2.1. Animal Owners will:**

- 2.1.1. Have each dog and/or cat vaccinated against rabies by the time it is four months of age and within each subsequent 12-month interval thereafter (*Rabies Control and Eradication Code, Title 25, Texas Administrative Code, Section 169.29*, and *Health and Safety Code, Chapter 826*). Failure to vaccinate each dog/cat owned by the person against rabies is a Class C misdemeanor.
 - 2.1.2. Ensure pets are registered with SGV within 10 days of their arrival on the installation.
 - 2.1.3. Terminate registration if the animal should perish, becomes permanently lost, is ordered removed, if ownership changes, or when outprocessing the installation.
 - 2.1.4. Maintain DD Form 2208, **Rabies Vaccination Certificate**, for one year from issue date, unless registration is terminated IAW above paragraph.
 - 2.1.5. Ensure each pet has a current rabies vaccination tag attached to its collar when the animal is outside the quarters.
 - 2.1.6. Control pets to prevent them from becoming a nuisance (i.e., running at large, excessive barking, etc.) or menace to humans, other animals, or property and be conscious and considerate of their neighbors.
 - 2.1.7. Contain pets within a fenced area, on a leash, or on a tether when pets are outside the quarters. Tethers will not be attached to trees, shrubs, carport posts, or other government property. Leashes must be short enough to keep pets off neighbors' property and to keep pet from interfering with persons using the sidewalk. When a person walks a leashed pet in base housing, the leash will be no longer than six feet. **NOTE:** Pets may be under voice control only when being exercised in an open area outside the immediate housing area (e.g., on the perimeter side of the fence dividing housing areas and the base perimeter; and in the base cononement area.).
 - 2.1.8. Not permit pets to enter eating establishments, tennis courts, golf course, swimming pool complexes, sports fields, or public buildings, except those designated specifically for animal care. Military Working Dogs (MWDs) and handicapped assistance animals are exempt.
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2.1.9. Permit MWDs to enter the Base Clinic only for official duty calls and will depart as soon as possible after completion. In these instances, MWDs will be specifically prohibited from entering patient care areas or medical procedure rooms.

2.1.10. Clean-up any unsanitary waste deposited outside by their pet(s) on a daily basis.

2.1.11. Keep unsprayed female dogs/felines in isolation while in ovulation.

2.1.12. Report animal bite incidents to the Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk (LED), Bldg 140.

2.1.13. Comply with animal bite, scratches, and quarantine procedures addressed in paragraph 3, below.

2.2. Security Forces will:

2.2.1. Maintain computer database of base rabies vaccination tags at the LED. The 47th Security Forces Operations Flight ensures new tags are added and the database is kept current.

2.2.2. Investigate complaints regarding animal behavior, bites, or scratches and accomplish DD Form 1569, **Incident/ Complaint Report**, and Security Forces blotter entry, as appropriate.

2.2.3. Immediately contact the Clinic Ambulatory Services desk (ext 6333/6335) when security forces personnel investigate on-base bite/scratch incidents involving military personnel.

2.2.4. Attempt to capture stray, unleashed, or injured animals, and animals involved in bite/scratch incidents.

2.2.4.1. Use heavy gloves or capture stick to capture animal.

2.2.4.2. If stray, unleashed, or injured animals are extremely active or difficult to capture, but present no immediate threat/hazard to personnel or property, attempt to follow it home. Horses, cattle, and/or other large animals will be reported to the Val Verde County Sheriff Department for disposition.

2.2.4.3. If an animal acts vicious/deranged (rabid), make every effort to **safely** capture/terminate it to prevent its escape.

2.2.4.3.1. Termination of animal will be **as a last resort** after all other means of capture have been exhausted.

2.2.4.3.2. The safety of the Security Forces person and the safety of innocent bystanders is paramount.

2.2.4.3.3. Standardized Air Force firearms safety rules IAW AFI 31-207, *Arming and Use of Force by Air Force Personnel*, will be followed.

2.2.4.3.4. Only government weapons are authorized for animal termination.

2.2.4.3.4.1. Use shotgun a shot, for small to medium size animals.

2.2.4.3.4.2. The 9mm pistol with standard issue round may be used to terminate large animals.

2.2.4.3.5. Check captured animals for rabies vaccination tag.

2.2.4.3.6. Attempt to locate the animal owner. If located, have owner report to the LED for questioning and/or briefing on pet control/quarantine responsibilities, as appropriate.

2.2.4.4. Place captured stray animals **with** rabies vaccination tags in the Security Forces Stray Animal Facility for no more than **24 hours**.

2.2.4.5. Transport captured animals **without** rabies vaccination tags and animals whose owner could not be found or contacted within **24 hours** to the Del Rio Animal Shelter.

2.2.4.6. Feed and water all animals in the facility twice daily and sanitize the kennels once each shift.

2.2.4.7. Brief a military veterinarian (see on call listing) on all bite/scratch incidents. During duty hours contact Lackland AFB Veterinarian Service at **DSN: 473-3353/3354**; during non-duty hours contact the Brook Army Medical Center on-duty veterinarian at **DSN: 429-9216/9404 (pager 429-6141)**. If unable to contact a military veterinarian, contact Rathke Veterinary Hospital at 774-2219, during duty and non-duty hours. **Ensure quarantine instructions are received.**

2.2.4.8. Determine if animal bite was provoked or otherwise justified IAW paragraph 3, below.

2.2.4.9. The Reports and Analysis Section (47 SFS/SFAR) will:

2.2.4.9.1. Review and suspense out incident/complaint reports.

2.2.4.9.2. Review Security Forces Automated System (SPAS) files for any previous reports on the same animal.

2.2.4.9.3. Forward incident/complaint reports to the Judge Advocate (JA) and provide information on any priors.

2.2.4.9.4. Forward report to member's unit commander (or civilian equivalent) for action.

2.2.4.9.5. If animal is ordered removed from the installation IAW paragraph 4 below, SPAR will serve a copy of the removal memorandum to the owner, have the owner acknowledge receipt on the original memorandum, and brief the owner on the animal removal suspense date.

2.2.4.9.6. SPAR will contact the owner on the suspense date to ensure the animal was removed; if

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not, JA will be contacted for guidance.

2.3. The Judge Advocate will:

2.3.3. Forward case file to the installation commander or designated representative for approval determination.

2.3.4. Record action taken on the incident/complaint report and forward it along with signed removal memorandum, if applicable, to 47 SFS/SFAR.

2.4. Base Veterinarian Services will:

2.4.1. Immunize dogs and cats over 3 months old IAW Veterinarian Services policies, record on DD Form 2208, and forward copy to 47 SFS/SFO.

2.4.2. Immunizations from off-base veterinarians will be validated and DD Form 2208 accomplished and forwarded.

2.4.3. Maintain records of animals vaccinated or treated on base.

**3. ANIMAL BITES/SCRATCHES/
QUARANTINE PROCEDURES.**

3.1. Any person bitten or scratched on Laughlin AFB should:

3.1.1. Report immediately to the base clinic, if during duty hours; or to the Val Verde Memorial Hospital Emergency Room, Del Rio, Texas.

3.1.2. Notify the LED of the incident.

3.2. Quarantine Procedures. When quarantine is directed by the military veterinarian:

3.2.1. The owner will produce the animal for 10 day confinement at the owner's expense to the Del Rio Animal Shelter. Refusal to do so, constitutes a violation of this directive, and each day of such refusal constitutes a separate and individual violation.

3.2.1.1. The 10 day confinement (observation period) begins the day the bite occurred.

3.2.1.2. The animal must be placed in the Del Rio Animal Control Facility or a veterinary hospital **approved** for that purpose. Any licensed veterinarian practicing in Val Verde County whose office has appropriate equipment for secluding the animal, will be an approved sit for quarantine.

3.2.2. The owner **may** request permission from the on call military veterinarian (see on call LED listing) or an animal control officer from the Del Rio Animal Shelter personnel for home quarantine, if the following criteria is met:

3.2.2.1. The animal was on the property of the owner at the time of the bite incident **and** the bitten person

2.3.1. Review complaint/incident reports and recommend action.

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2.3.2. Prepare a memorandum requesting removal, if animal removal is recommended.

either provoked the animal or was trespassing on the property.

3.2.2.2. A secure facility, approved by veterinarian, is available at the animal owner's house.

3.2.2.3. The animal is currently vaccinated against rabies.

3.2.2.4. A licensed veterinarian must observe the animal on at least the **10th** day of the quarantine period.

3.2.2.5. If the animal becomes ill during the observation period, the veterinarian or animal control officer must be notified immediately by the person having possession of the animal.

3.2.3. If the biting animal cannot be maintained in a secure quarantine facility or the owner chooses not to pay for quarantine, the animal shall be humanely destroyed and the brain submitted to a Texas Department of Health certified laboratory for rabies diagnosis, at the owner's expense.

3.2.4. The public health officer will track bite/scratch incidents and make the necessary notifications if the owner fails to have their animal checked at the end of the 10 day period. If the owner fails to comply, follow paragraph 4.

3.2.5. Wild animals and unregistered animals involved in biting incidents will not be placed in quarantine; the animal shall be humanely destroyed and procedures in the above paragraph will be followed.

**4. CONDITIONS WARRANTING REMOVAL
OF PETS FROM THE INSTALLATION FOR
CAUSE:**

4.1. One verified report of an unprovoked animal bite.

4.2. Vicious animals involved in bite incidents which present a continuing threat to safety of personnel.

4.3. Two or more confirmed cases of failure to control pet.

4.4. Owner fails to exercise responsible control or comply with other provisions of this directive.

5. INJURED/DEAD ANIMALS:

5.1. Injured animals found on base will be reported to the Security Forces LED. If the owner cannot be identified, the animal will be transported to an off-base veterinarian.

5.2. Dead animals found on base will be reported to the 47 CES/Entomology Section during duty hours or to the CE Emergency Service Call Desk after duty

hours. Entomology will pick up and properly dispose of animal IAW CES directives.

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